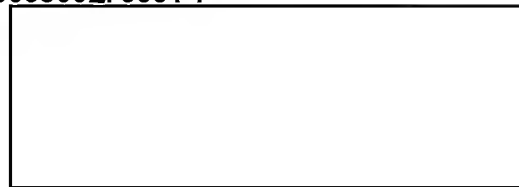


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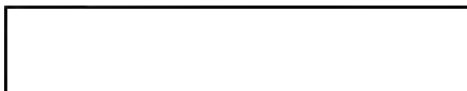
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\*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: Premier Ky thus far does not appear to have gained the cooperation of Chief of State Thieu in his attempt to remove General Co as defense minister and deputy premier.

[REDACTED]

General Thieu, who probably holds the balance of power among the military members of the ruling Directorate, is supporting Co. In addition there are numerous indications that southerners--civilians and military alike--are interpreting widespread rumors of Ky's effort against Co as another round of northern pressure against southerners.

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US Embassy officials estimate that no action against Co is likely before Premier Ky's scheduled tour of Australia and New Zealand beginning on 18 January. In fact, [REDACTED] Vietnamese Foreign Ministry officials have reported that General Co is now scheduled to accompany Ky on his tour. Originally, the civilian deputy premier was to go, but this was changed to preclude Co's becoming acting premier in Ky's absence.

The Embassy has also raised the possibility that Ky's widely rumored plan to remove Co on charges of corruption is intended to pressure General Co into quietly accepting another assignment, perhaps an ambassadorial post. General Co's aide recently remarked, however, that he was certain that Co had no intention of doing so.

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Only light contact between allied and Communist forces has been reported during the past 24 hours.

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\*Communist China: Tension remains high in two East China cities which were the scene of sharp struggles last week between pro- and anti-Mao forces.

In Nanking, where pro-Mao "rebels" were reported to have been brutally suppressed in fighting that took place from 3 to 6 January, it is unclear who is in control. Nanking Radio has broadcast no local news since 7 January. This blackout--which has not been noted in any other city in China--implies that it is in the hands of local authorities opposed to Mao. A poster put up in Peking on 11 January by "rebels" from Nanking asserted that the anti-Mao forces were still mobilizing workers, that factories in Nanking had virtually shut down, and that transportation remained paralyzed.

Perhaps the best indication that the East China situation has not been brought under control is the fact that rail service between Shanghai and Peking--which stopped about 27 December--apparently remains suspended. A broadcast on 12 January from Shanghai--where pro-Mao "rebels" have taken over many functions--conceded that their opposition in the local party machinery was still "struggling frantically."

As disorder continues in China, there are some signs which raise doubts about the present standing of Defense Minister Lin Piao. Lin, who replaced Chief of State Liu Shao-chi as Mao's heir apparent last August, has not made a speech since 3 November and last appeared in public on 26 November. Lin is still touted as Mao's "close comrade in arms" but he has not been credited with providing new guidance on any aspect of the "cultural revolution" in the past two months. This omission seemed especially pointed in Peking's commentary in the past few days about a new "Cultural Revolution" (purge) group which has just been formed in the army.

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\* Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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Thailand: The Thai Communist Party has been playing a direct role in organizing and directing the subversive movement in northeast Thailand.

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Communist activity in the northeast has been highlighted in recent weeks by attacks on isolated bridges and roads, in what appears to be a new effort to restrict the mobility of government troops. Minor harassments of government outposts and numerous small-scale skirmishes continue to be reported, although the majority of these have been at government initiative.

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Togo: Army chief Eyadema's take-over appears to have been unopposed, but his regime will face the same kind of pressures from military and civilian elements that immobilized the Grunitzky government.

[redacted] some of the younger, better-trained army officers, such as the army's next ranking man, Major Assila, would prefer an outright military government to the early return to civilian rule announced by Eyadema. However, there reportedly is a regional split within the 600-man army on this question, with the pro-civilian northerners in the majority.

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Former president Grunitzky, who resigned gracefully on 13 January, made national reconciliation the main program of his four-year regime, but he never achieved it. From the time of his installation by the army, he never had genuine broad-based popular support, and the military influenced most of his policy decisions.

From his initial statements, it appears that Eyadema likewise will attempt to integrate all of Togo's political factions into a "Council of Reconciliation." He has already called for the release of those held for participation in the abortive 21 November coup, and a general amnesty seems likely.

It is still uncertain which elements will ultimately come to power under the new regime. Probable contenders range from old-line supporters of the pre-1963 regime to extreme leftists and sympathizers with former Ghanaian president Nkrumah. Eyadema may seek a way out by insisting on a government of technicians, a formula he tried unsuccessfully to sell to Grunitzky last month.

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Iraq: President Arif may be preparing to deal with the oil crisis, which could cost the country up to two-thirds of its oil revenues.

Arif's first step may be to appoint a new cabinet, which would adopt an Iraq-first policy. Arif is reportedly at odds with pro-Nasir Prime Minister Naji Talib, and believes that neither Talib's expression of solidarity with Syria nor the hard line he is taking toward the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) are in Iraq's interest. The most prominently-mentioned replacement as prime minister is Abd al-Wahab Amin, who is said to oppose the Syrians strongly and to enjoy army support.

Arif, however, must proceed cautiously in reversing Iraq's pro-Syrian stand for fear that an abrupt change would provoke serious demonstrations or coup attempts supported by Cairo. Two former cabinet ministers and several army officers were arrested on 8 January for plotting an assassination attempt against Arif. An Iraqi-first policy would probably also exacerbate existing tensions with Syria.

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Bahamas: Progressive Liberal Party (PLP)  
leader Pindling expects to form a new government  
shortly.

Pindling is reporting to the British governor the results of negotiations he has been conducting. He appears to have broken the stalemate resulting from the 10 January elections by obtaining the support of the one Labor Party member. His vote gives the PLP a majority of one in the House of Assembly. The lone independent would not threaten the slim majority if as reported, he has accepted the House speakership position, which carries no vote.

A PLP government would end control by the white-led United Bahaman Party. Racist statements made by some PLP members during the campaign, and the lack of expertise of the incoming PLP cabinet members is causing concern among the islands' white minority and foreign investors.

Pindling, as premier, may find his boast that only he determines the policies of the PLP challenged by more extreme elements, who will be sharing the cabinet with him.

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Dominican Republic: A week-long boycott of classes by secondary students could lead to violence.

The strike, led by Communist and non-Communist student groups, is attracting growing support from antigovernment opposition organizations as well as from the moderate National Federation of Teachers. Neither President Balaguer nor the students appear ready to yield over such issues as the government's attempt to curb political agitation in the school system, the dismissal of students and teachers, and the creation of a "school police force." In addition, students are demanding the removal of the education minister.

A few minor incidents have occurred between police and demonstrating students but so far both sides have sought to avoid violence. If the boycott is prolonged, however, it will lead to a confrontation with the government.

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NOTES

Congo (Kinshasa)-Belgium: Union Miniere, under Belgian Government pressure, is now offering the Congolese a contract under which the company would supervise copper production and act as sales agent. Its terms are steep, and the proposals leave several key issues unresolved. President Mobutu will find it politically difficult to accept these terms, but there is a fair chance that he will eventually give in for want of a better choice. With this new proposal in hand, he will be able to back away from his threatened seizure of other Belgian-owned properties in the Congo on 15 January. [REDACTED]

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India: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The two Hindus are demanding a nationwide ban on the slaughter of cows. New Delhi lacks the constitutional authority to meet their full demands and is reluctant to appear to be yielding to this type of communal pressure. Extremist Hindu nationalists are making cow slaughter a major issue in the campaign for the general elections in February. [REDACTED]

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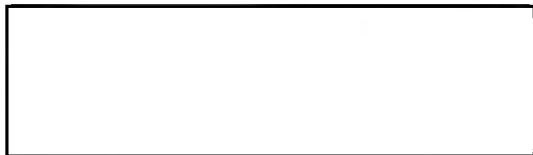
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